

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-07 OES-06 FEAE-00 DODE-00

ERDA-07 AID-05 PM-04 H-02 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 JUSE-00 TRSE-00 MC-02 /124 W

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6960

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 9885

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, US

SUBJECT: G.K. REDDY ON INDO-US TIES

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION NEW DELHI INFO BOMBAY FROM MADRAS
6TH JULY REPEAT TO YOU;

QUOTE:

MADRAS 1171

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, US

SUBJECT: G.K. REDDY ON INDO - US TIES

THERE IS QUOTED BELOW IN ITS ENTIRETY THE G.K. REDDY ARTICLE
ENTITLED "MAJOR IRRITANT IN TIES WITH U.S. REMOVED"
FRONTPAGED IN THE HINDU OF JULY 4.

QUOTE.

THE BELATED ISSUE OF A LICENCE BY THE U.S. NUCLEAR
REGULATORY COMMISSION (NRC) FOR PART SHIPMENT OF THE
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URGENTLY NEEDED URANIUM FUEL, WHICH WILL JUST ABOUT MEET

THE INDIAN DEADLINE FOR AVERTING A BREAK IN THE CYCLE OF POWER GENERATION AT THE TARAPORE ATOMIC PLANT, HAS REMOVED A MAJOR IRRITANT IN INDO-AMERICAN RELATIONS.

THERE WERE TWO PENDING APPLICATIONS FOR THE SUPPLY OF THE ANNUAL REQUIREMENT OF ROUGHLY 21 TONS OF ENRICHED URANIUM FUEL, IN TWO LOTS OF NINE AND 12 TONS, FOR OPERATING THE AMERICAN-BUILT TARAPORE PLANT, WHEN THE N.R.C. DECIDED TO WITHHOLD THE SHIPMENTS UNTIL IT HAD HEARD THE OBJECTIONS OF THE ENVIRONMENTALISTS WHO, WITH THE BACKING OF SOME INFLUENTIAL CONGRESSMEN, WERE CAMPAIGNING FOR THE REPUDIATION OF AMERICA'S CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS.

WHATEVER HIS EARLIER PREDILECTIONS OVER INDIA'S SHARP REACTION TO SOME OF THE AMERICAN POLICIES AND ACTIONS, U. S. AMBASSADOR, MR. WILLIAM SAXBE, HAS CERTAINLY PLAYED A MOST HELPFUL ROLE IN PERSUADING THE MEMBERS OF THE N.R.C. TO GRANT AN INTERIM LICENCE FOR THE FIRST SHIPMENT, WHICH HAS WARDED A FURTHER WORSENING OF INDO-AMERICAN RELATIONS. BUT THE REMOVAL OF ONE NEGATIVE FACTOR CANNOT BY ITSELF MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION WITHOUT MATCHING FOLLOW-UP ACTION IN OTHER SPHERES.

SO, IN VOICING APPRECIATION OF MR. SAXBE'S POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION IN THIS PARTICULAR CONTEXT, ONE CANNOT OVERLOOK THE REALITY THAT A LOT MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE TO RESTORE SOME DEGREE OF MUTUAL CONFIDENCE IN INDO-AMERICAN RELATIONS. ONE OF THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES HAS BEEN HOLDING PUBLIC HEARINGS ON THE ALLEGED DENIAL OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN INDIA. AT THE HEARINGS SOME INDIAN NATIONS WHO HAVE BEEN ACTIVELY CAMPAIGNING ABROAD AGAINST THE IMPOSITION OF THE EMERGENCY HAVE BEEN PERMITTED TO DENOUNCE THE GOVERNMENT, WHILE SOME EMINENT AMERICANS WELL ACQUAINTED WITH THE INDIAN DEVELOPMENTS HAVE DEFENDED THE STEP.

THOUGH THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION CANNOT ALWAYS BE BLAMED FOR THE EXCESSES OF THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES, AMERICAN CRITICISM OF INDIA HAS UNFORTUNATELY BECOME SO COMMONPLACE THAT MANY INDIANS ARE NOW LOOKING UPON THE UNITED STATES AS A COUNTRY THAT EXCELS ITSELF IN PRACTISING DOUBLE
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STANDARDS IN JUDGING THE ACTIONS OF OTHER PEOPLES. IT IS NOT A QUESTION F WHETHER THE U.S. IS RIGHT OR WRONG IN CRITICISING THE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN INDIA, BUT ONE OF PROPRIETY IN ALLOWING ITS INSTITUTIONS TO BE MISUSED FOR SUCH PURPOSES.

THESE FREQUENT PINPRICKS HAVE, HOWEVER, NOT DETERRED INDIA FROM CONSTANTLY EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITIES OF IMPROVING

RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. THE INDIAN AMBASSADOR, MR. T. N. KAUL, WHO HAS GALLANTLY HORNE THE CROSS IN WASHINGTON, WILL BE COMING TO DELHI SHORTLY FOR CONSULTATIONS. THE IDEA IS TO PREPARE FROM NOW ONWARDS FOR FACING THE POST-ELECTION SCENE IN THE UNITED STATES. WHILE IT IS NOT INDIA'S INTENTION TO JUMP ON TO THE WINNING BAND WAGON, IT CANNOT ALSO AFFORD TO ISOLATE ITSELF FROM THE POLITICAL CROSS-CURRENTS AT WORK IN THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION UNDER WAY, WHICH WILL HAVE GLOBAL REPERCUSSIONS.

IT IS INDIA'S POLICY TO KEEP ON MAKING EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN REASONABLY GOOD RELATIONS WITH BOTH THE SUPER POWERS, WHILE STRIVING FOR CLOSER UNDERSTANDING WITH THE MORE IMMEDIATE NEIGHBOURS. THERE IS NO CONTRADICTION AT ALL IN A NON-ALIGNED COUNTRY LIKE INDIA SEEKING SUCH A BALANCED RELATIONSHIP WITH BOTH BIG AND SMALL POWERS. AND IN HOPING FOR THE EMERGENCE OF A MORE SYMPATHETIC ADMINISTRATION IN THE UNITED STATES, INDIA IS ONLY RESPONDING TO THE PROMISE OF AN OPEN PRESIDENCY WITH A FRESHNESS OF APPROACH AND GREATER FAITH IN OLD FASHIONED VIRTUES IN THE CONDUCT OF THE COUNTRY'S FOREIGN RELATIONS. UNQUOTE. SIGNED MCCASKILL

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